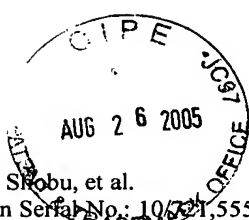


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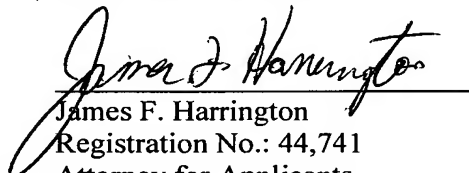
**REMARKS**

This Amendment is in response to the non-final Office Action mailed June 3, 2005. Claims 13-49 are withdrawn. Claims 1 and 9-12 are amended. Claims 3 and 6-7 are cancelled. Accordingly, Claims 1, 2, 4, 5 and 8-12 are pending.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1-12. However, the Examiner has helpfully stated that Claim 1 would be allowable over the prior art if amended to be limited to the aqueous coating agent comprising shellac and a basic amino acid. Claim 1 has been so amended. Claims 9-12 have been amended to depend directly upon Claim 1. Thus, Claim 1 and the claims dependent thereon are now in allowable form.

Applicants respectfully submit that the application is now in proper form for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited. If resolution of any remaining issue is required prior to allowance of the application, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact Applicant's attorney at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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